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**COOKE COUNTY MASTER GARDENER EARTH-KIND**® **APPLIED RESEARCH GARDENS @ FRANK BUCK ZOO**

Phase I, 2016

Earth-Kind® Landscaping uses research-proven techniques to provide maximum garden and landscape enjoyment while preserving and protecting the environment. The objective of Earth-Kind® Landscaping is to combine the best of organic and traditional gardening and landscaping principles to create a horticultural system based on real world effectiveness and environmental responsibility. A large component of this is to identify superior plant materials and varieties for the landscape. The selection of plants that will have the best chance of success under the Earth-Kind® management principles is very important. The initial selection criterion includes plants that are known for having fewer problems with insects and disease, limited fertility requirements and low maintenance. The Cooke County Master Gardener Earth-Kind® Perennial Applied Research Gardens includes 4 research planting beds and 3 display beds totaling 800 square feet of planting space. Each variety was replicated 4 times in the research beds with chosen Earth-Kind® varieties featured in the Display beds. There are 10 varieties that were planted in the 2016 research beds. These varieties are as follows:

Perennial Varieties to be tested in 2016 are: Scientific name/Common Name

Verbena x hybrid “Enduroscape” Enduroscape Verbena

Phlox paniculata “John Fanick” John Fanick Perennial Phlox

Larandula x intermedia/ Phenomenal Lavender

Dianthus gratianopolitanus “Firewitch” Firewitch Cheddar Pink

Nepeta x faassenii “Walker’s Low” Walker’s Low Catmint

Gaura lindheimeri “White Fountain” White Fountain Gaura

Liatris spicata “Floristan Purple” Gay feather “Floristan Purple”

Santolina chamaecyparissus Lavender Cotton

Artemisia X “Powis Castle” Powis Castle Artemisia or Wormwood

Melampodium leucanthum Blackfoot Daisy

The following Earth-Kind® principles and practices will be used in the research gardens:

* Grass and weeds in all the planting areas will be killed with a glyphosate product.
* The perennial beds will be tilled twice; three inches of fully aged vegetative compost added to these beds and tilled in to a depth of six to ten inches.
* Three inches of mulch will be maintained on all of the beds.
* No synthetic fertilizers or pesticides will be used after the initial use of glyphosate.
* Minimal supplemental watering will be used after the first year.
* Trimming and pruning will be limited to that required to minimize plant overlap